

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-14
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R 091330Z SEP 77
FM AMCONSUL GOTEBORG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0326
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS GOTEBORG 0223

COPENHAGEN FOR DEA ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, SW, SN
SUBJECT: SINGAPORE CHINESE CHARGED AS LEADER OF EUROPEAN
NARCOTICS RING

1. THE PRESS HAS REPORTED THE ARREST IN GOTEBORG THIS WEEK OF
A 31-YEAR-OLD CHINESE FROM SINGAPORE ON CHARGES OF HEROIN
SMUGGLING. ACCORDING TO THE PAPERS, THE CHINESE IS BELIEVED
TO BE EUROPEAN CHIEF OF THE "SEE TONG", REPORTEDLY ONE OF THE
MOST POWERFUL TONGS IN SINGAPORE. THE PRESS ALSO CLAIMED THAT
IN THE PAST THREE YEARS GOTEBORG HAS BECOME A MAJOR BASE OF
OPERATIONS FOR NARCOTICS SMUGGLING IN EUROPE, ALTHOUGH
REPORTEDLY THE HEROIN HAS NOT BEEN IMPORTED INTO SWEDEN FOR
DISTRIBUTION.

2. ACCORDING TO THE GOTEBORGS-POSTEN OF SEPTEMBER 9, THE ARREST
OF "THIS SEEMINGLY SERIOUS BUSINESSMAN" HAS ATTRACTED "GREAT
ATTENTION" IN EUROPEAN POLICE CIRCLES, SINCE HE IS ALLEGEDLY A
TOP FIGURE IN THE NARCOTICS SMUGGLING FIELD. THE SUSPECT, WHO
HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN OPERATING AN IMPORT FIRM IN GOTEBORG, WAS
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BROUGHT BEFORE AN EXAMINING JUDGE YESTERDAY AND REMANDED FOR
FURTHER INVESTIGATION. TWO OTHER SINGAPORE CHINESE HAVE ALSO
BEEN ARRESTED IN GOTEBORG IN CONNECTION WITH THE CASE AND ARE
SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN COURT TODAY.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SWEDISH PRACTICE, THE NAME OF THE ALLEGED
RING LEADER WAS NOT PUBLISHED. HOWEVER, THE PRESS DID REPORT THAT

HE CAME TO GOTEBORG IN THE EARLY 1970'S, AND STARTED A SERIES OF SMALL CHINESE RESTAURANTS TOGETHER WITH SOME COMPATRIOTS. EVENTUALLY HE SOLD HIS INTEREST IN THE RESTAURANTS AND OPENED AN IMPORTING BUSINESS TO SERVE AS A COVER FOR HIS ILLEGAL OPERATIONS. ALTHOUGH HE HAS APPLIED FOR SWEDISH CITIZENSHIP, IT HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST.

4. COMMENT: THE SUDDEN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS IN THIS PORT CITY IN RECENT YEARS HAS LONG PROVOKED PRESS AND PUBLIC SPECULATION THAT THEY MIGHT BE OPERATING AS A COVER FOR THE NARCOTICS TRADE. WHILE A NUMBER OF LONG-ESTABLISHED SWEDISH RESTAURANTS HAVE BEEN GOING OUT OF BUSINESS, IN VIEW OF THE DEPRESSED STATE OF THE SWEDISH ECONOMY, CHINESE RESTAURANTS HAVE BEEN MUSHROOMING, AND FAR OUTNUMBER ANY OTHER ETHNIC-TYPE RESTAURANTS IN GOTEBORG. THIS WEEK'S ARRESTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REINFORCE THE GENERAL PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT GOTEBORG HAS INDEED BECOME THE "NORTHERN EUROPEAN HEADQUARTERS" OF THE NARCOTICS TRADE.
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